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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 July 16

Patrick Guiney

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Camp at Berlin Md.
July 16. 1862

My dear Fannie

Your letter of July 9th reached me to day. I am surprised that you did not receive a scrawl which I sent to you from the battlefield of Gettysburgh July 5th. I entrusted it to a civilian who happened to be passing and he promised to post it.

It is no wonder, darling that you should complain of my tardiness in writing to you. But really while we were engaged in those recent rapid and all important marches, I could not ^{set myself down} ~~sit down~~ to anything of a personal nature even if I had time. But it was, more than all, impossible to mail any letter unless through the agency of the residents. At ~~last~~ the hurry seems to be over

at least for a few days and I hope to be
able to write to you and hear from
you often. However I regard our stay
here as one of a very temporary cha-
racter. It is said that we are simply
awaiting pontoons etc. to cross the
Potomac again; but the fact is, if it
were an object to cross immediately,
we could do so at several points with-
out pontoons at all, as we have done
on several former occasions. I think
the delay here is - 1st to arrange the
details and elements of a new Campaign
and 2^d to give rest to this wearied army.

To day I have been very unwell
and if we had to march one mile farther
I should have been obliged to give up.
The heat, exposure so long continued, and
want of proper food nearly brought on a
fever - at any rate I never felt so
before in my life. I am better this
evening and feel scarcely any trace
of that sensation which oppressed me
earlier in the day.

See, you are aware "Has escaped" etc. It is
no silly job to catch him, I assure you.
When once he left Gettysburg it was
impossible ~~it~~ to give him any fatal
blow. Gettysburg, ~~on~~ the evening of July
3^d were the time and place to ruin
his Army. We saw his army flying from
the field, broken, beaten, terrified! O!
how I felt the significance of that mo-
ment. But ^{Meade} allowed it to pass - stood still,
and gave us - another years work. In
common with thousands I was disgusted to
see such an opportunity lost.

Well, the soulless ruffians of
New-York and Boston I see are making too
-bly in the very hour of victory. I hope
the artillery will exempt them from
the draft forever!

Edward McLaughlin is here
and well. Sullivan Harby and Mahan
are still off-trimmed of humbugs!
Kiss my little pet for me.

Quincy